

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 5156

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: THIRD-COUNTRY ISSUES: CHILE

REF: STATE 172095

1. CUBA: CHILEAN LEADERS TREAT THE CUBAN ISSUE VERY SERIOUSLY BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY REGARD AS CUBAN INTERVENTION DURING THE ALLENDE PERIOD AND CUBAN HOSTILITY SINCE. THE GOC WILL DO WHAT IT CAN TO DELAY THE DISMANTLING OF SANCTIONS. IT REALIZES THIS IS A LOST CAUSE; IT WILL NEVERTHELESS BE DISAPPOINTED AND SOMEWHAT BITTER WHEN IT HAPPENS, AND WILL THEREAFTER TRY TO OBSTRUCT CUBAN REENTRY INTO THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. GOC WILL TAKE NOTE OF THE EVOLUTION OF OUR POLICY SINCE THE QUITO CONFERENCE AND TEND TO ATTRIBUTE TO US MUCH OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REMOVAL OF SANCTIONS.

2. THE GOC WILL REGARD US-CUBAN RECIPROCAL MOVES AS AN UNFORTUNATE, INEVITABLE RESULT OF PRESENT US POLICY. THE DIRECT INCREMENTAL EFFECT ON THE ALREADY UNCOMFORTABLE US-CHILEAN RELATIONSHIP WILL BE LIMITED AND MUTED BUT REAL. THE GOC IS UNHAPPY WITH THE US' GENERAL POLICY ON DETENTE, SINCE IT BELIEVES DETENTE WORKS AGAINST CHILEAN INTERESTS, AND A US RAPPROACHEMENT WITH CUBA WOULD AFFECT CHILE STILL MORE INTIMATELY. IT WOULD INCREASE CHILEAN SUSPICION OF US INTENTIONS AND CONCERN OVER ITS RELIABILITY, AND WOULD FURTHER ENCOURAGE THE CHILEAN INCLINATION -- SO FAR, LARGELY FRUITLESS -- TO DEVELOP OTHER, PERHAPS MORE USEFUL, CONFIDENTIAL

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RELATIONSHIPS WHEREVER IT MAY.

3. PANAMA CANAL: THE GOC WANTS TO SEE THE CANAL KEPT OPEN UNDER EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AND REASONABLE TOLLS, AND TO AVOID CONFRONTATION AND HAVING TO TAKE SIDES. IF THE US-PANAMANIAN RELATIONSHIP BREAKS DOWN, THE GOC WOULD FEEL IMPELLED TO JOIN AN LA CONSENSUS AGAINST THE U.S. BUT WOULD NOT GO BEYOND TALK.

4. OPEC, GSP AND TRA: CHILE'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS WOULD BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED ONLY AS ITS MEMBERSHIP IN A FUTURE COPPER OR OTHER CARTEL MIGHT BE CONCERNED. THEY WOULD NOT WANT ANYTHING TO INTERFERE WITH THEIR ANTICIPATED GSP BENEFITS. POLITICALLY, AS ON PANAMA, CHILE WOULD GO ALONG WITH AN LA CONSENSUS AGAINST THE US, BUT COUNSEL PATIENCE, MODERATION AND CONCILIATION. THIS AND THE PANAMANIAN ISSUE ARE NOT LIKELY TO AFFECT US-CHILEAN BILATERAL RELATIONS SIGNIFICANTLY.
POPPER

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